

**BY:** Senator BIAGGI

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2021, as Heart Disease Awareness Month in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of serious diseases that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2021, as Heart Disease Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Heart Disease Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS,** American Heart Month, held each February, is the month for lovers and all things heart related which reminds New Yorkers to take care of their heart; and

**WHEREAS,** This annual celebration began in 1963 to encourage Americans to join the battle against heart disease; and

**WHEREAS,** A presidential proclamation pays tribute each year to researchers, physicians, public health professionals and volunteers for their tireless efforts in preventing, treating and researching heart disease; and

**WHEREAS,** Cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke, remains the leading global cause of death for men and women in the United States with more than 17.9 million deaths each year; one in four of these deaths are caused by heart disease; and

**WHEREAS,** Heart disease is the number one killer of women, claiming more lives each year than all forms of cancer combined; and

**WHEREAS,** Nearly 80 percent of cardiac events can be prevented with education and lifestyle changes such as by making healthy choices and managing their health conditions; and

**WHEREAS,** About one in three adults in the United States has high blood cholesterol, a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke; and

**WHEREAS,** Hospitals and health systems around the country celebrate American Heart Month by helping to raise awareness in their communities about heart disease; staff wear red and volunteers knit or crochet pint-sized red hats for newborns; in addition, they hold free screenings and heart health awareness events; and

**WHEREAS,** It is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious health disease, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and National levels; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2021, as Heart Disease Awareness Month in the State of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.